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## MESSAGES FROM THE MARSH

*The E-Newsletter of the MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey*

**March 2006**

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EDUCATIONAL NEWS: Staff Development Opportunities for Educators

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- **Meadowlands Self-Guided Teacher Associate Program**
- Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1, 2006
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. both days
- Fee: \$60.00
- For 4-12th grade teachers

If you'd like the flexibility of running your own field trips at the Meadowlands Environment Center and DeKorte Park, consider becoming a Self-Guided Teacher Associate. Over the course of two days, participate in an interdisciplinary study of

our urban estuarine wetlands. Background information, hands on practice, field equipment, and pre and post lessons will be provided. For more information or to find out when the next round of training will occur, please contact: Teacher Associate Program Coordinator Meadowlands Environment Center 2 DeKorte Park Plaza Lyndhurst, NJ 07071 201-460-8300 [education@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:education@njmeadowlands.gov)

[To learn more about MEC Professional Development opportunities...](#)

### **EVENTS AT THE CENTER**

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The Fire Children

- Sunday, March 19

- 1:00 p.m.
- All Ages are welcome
- Members \$8
- Non-members \$10
- Pre-registration required. Groups welcome

This is a tale of the earth and it's many multi-cultural inhabitants. Djembe drums, shekere and thumb pianos accompany games, songs and African dance steps in which you'll explore this story from the Akan people of Ghana. You'll also learn how to make an Akuba doll.

- **Flying Fun**

- Sunday, March 26th
- 1:00 p.m.
- Ages: 10-12 years old accompanied by an adult
- Members \$8 admits one adult and one child; \$5 for each additional participant.
- Non Members \$10 admits one adult and one child. \$5 for each additional participant.
- Pre-registration required.

Since the Kitty Hawk became airborne just over 100 years ago, we've been flying through the air with the greatest of ease, and this program will teach you how this is possible. You will conduct experiments to learn the properties of air, and do a little flying yourself after building your own kite! All materials included.

[To view an electronic version of the schedule...](#)

MEET THE STAFF: Welcome Jeniffer Obando

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This month we welcome a new employee to the Meadowlands Environment Center. Jeniffer Obando has joined our staff of environmental educators. Mrs. Obando comes to us with over 10 years of teaching experience. She has previously worked as a Biology Teacher at the High School level and at the University of Costa Rica, where she taught biology labs. The resident of a Meadowlands District town, Jeniffer is both personally and professionally thrilled to be back in the Meadowlands.

### **FLYWAY GALLERY: Area Educators**

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1st Annual Educators Art Exhibit - March 2nd through March 31st

This month come see the artistic renderings of educators from: Jersey City, Lyndhurst, Secaucus, North Bergen, Ridgefield Park, the Bergen County Academy and Bergen County Special Services on display in the Flyway Gallery located off the lobby of the Meadowlands Environment Center.

[For more information on the NJMC Arts in the Meadowlands Program...](#)

MEC PARTNERSHIPS: Nature Program Cooperative

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#### **March NPC Event: The Beauty of Native Gardening**

- Sponsored by the Nature Program Cooperative
- Hosted by the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center
- Sunday, March 19, 2006
- 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Calling All Gardeners - Spring has Sprung! Got gardening on the brain? Come to Flat Rock Brook Nature Center and learn about Native and Invasive Plants from Master Gardener Kathy

Silberstein. Kathy will discuss the pros of native gardening, what invasive plants are, and how native plants can enhance your garden. So come one, come all from beginner to master! Share your gardening experiences, solve your problems and get ready for the 2006 gardening season! Free for members. Please call Flat Rock Brook Nature Center at (201) 567-1265, or go to [www.flatrockbrook.org](http://www.flatrockbrook.org) to register.

The Nature Program Cooperative is a network of organizations that provide quality nature programs.

Throughout the year, different nature organizations will host an outdoor activity or indoor educational program at a nature center or other appropriate location to which all network participants are invited. We hope to encourage more people to visit the Meadowlands to the south, the Palisades to the east, the reservoirs to the north and the Highlands to the west, and everywhere in between.

When applicable, member discounts will apply to all Co-op partner members and supporters. For example, when the Meadowlands Environment Center hosts an event, members of all other groups pay the MEC member rate. Non-members are also welcome to attend. All events will be advertised in each group's newsletter.

[To learn more about the Nature Program Cooperative...](#)

**MEC PARTNERSHIPS: Meadowlands Liberty Convention and Visitors Bureau & the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce**

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The main lobby of the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce office is in the final stages of being converted into the Meadowlands Liberty Convention and Visitors Bureau's Visitors Center.

It promises to be a warm and welcoming atmosphere for visitors who are looking for more information about where to stay, eat, shop and play in the region.

The Meadowlands Environment Center is proud to host a Meadowlands Liberty Convention and Visitors Bureau Information Kiosk in the lobby of the Center.

[For additional information on the Meadowlands Liberty Convention and Visitors Bureau...](#)

Quick Links...

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- [MEC Website](#)
- [MEC Schedule of Events Registration](#)
- [MEC School Program Registration](#)
- [MEC Media Center](#)
- [New Jersey Meadowlands Commission](#)
- [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
- [Meadowlands Conservation Trust](#)

**Lara Rodriguez**

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